(b) whether this tuition fee is reimbursed to all those employees whose wards are studying in Government/Semi-Government and private schools;

(c) whether it is also a fact that employees whose wards are studying in Government/Semi-Government Schools have to move place to place to get receipt of books, uniforms, shoes etc.;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to add tuition fee in the salary of employees; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Subsequent to the recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission, the Government had introduced the Children Education Allowance Scheme ***w.e.f.*** 01.09.2008. Under the Scheme, the Children Education Allowance reimbursement can be availed by the Government Servant for a maximum of two children @ Rs. 1000/- p.m. per child.

(b) and (c) The reimbursement is applicable for the education of school going children only ***i.e.*** for Classes Nursery of XII including XI and XII held by junior colleges or schools affiliated to Universities or Board of Education. Under this scheme, reimbursement can be claimed for the tuition fee, admission fee, laboratory fee, special fee charged for agriculture, electronics, music or any other subject, fee charged for practical work under the programme for work experience, fee paid for the use of any aid or appliance by the child, library fee, games/sports fee and fee for extra-curricular activities. This also includes reimbursement for purchase of one set of text books and notebooks, two sets of uniforms and one set of school shoes which can be claimed for a child, in a year. The reimbursement is made on submission of original receipts on the basis of self certification by the Government servant.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal in the Government of add tuition fee in the salary of the employees as it is a reimbursable allowance and does not form part of the salary of the employee.

Brain Gain Policy

3448. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to introduce Brain Gain Policy to attract Indian talents for national universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the national universities will be provided freedom to establish chairs of studies and would be funded through the non-Government endowments; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A policy to attract talent into higher education, particularly into 14 Universities to be established as Innovation Universities is under consideration of Government. Even existing Universities have the autonomy to establish chairs of studies and obtain funds for the purpose from Government and Non Government sources.

Teaching standards in schools

†3449. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need to raise the standards of teaching in the existing schools of the country;

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard;

(c) whether measures have been implemented in this regard during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the consequential increase in percentage of results in school examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. National Curriculum Framework, 2005 articulates the need for a substantial improvement in the quality of education. Continuous steps have been taken to raise the standard of teaching in the existing schools through in-service teachers training programmes and various other measures under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). SSA has identified quality parameters such as basic infrastructure, school and classroom environment, teacher training etc. and is providing assistance to achieve them. Under SSA, existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training and grants provided for developing teacher training materials. Schools under Central Government like Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas generally maintain high standards of teaching. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has adopted syllabi and curriculum prepared by National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) and prescribes textbooks prepared by NCERT. CBSE verifies quality of education in respect of infrastructure, teaching methodologies, co-curricular activities and teachers training programmes, etc. before granting affiliation to schools.

(e) As per the National Achievement Surveys conducted under SSA across the States by NCERT, there is an increase of 2-4% in average achievement at different stages of school education over a period of three years.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.